

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 00526

USSALT TWO
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, NO. 183, JANUARY 13, 1978
(SALT TWO-1566)

SUMMARY: SOVIETS TABLED AGREED STATEMENT TO II.3. DEFINING
"BOMBERS." GROUP AGREED TO ESTABLISH SUB-GROUP TO EXAMINE
US JAN. 12 PROPOSAL ON MIRV VERIFICATION IN ADDITION TO
HOLDING CONFORMING SUB-GROUP MEETING. US SUGGESTED USE
OF TERM "OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES" IN PLACE OF "CAPABILI-
TIES" OR "CHARACTERISTICS" IN II.3. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING-UP ON DEC. 12 PLENARY, SOVIETS TABLED DRAFT
AGREED STATEMENT TO ARTICLE II.3. AS FOLLOWS: "THE
PARTIES AGREE THAT THE TERM "BOMBERS" AS USED IN PARA 3
OF ART. II MEANS THOSE TYPES OF AIRPLANES WHICH ARE
SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH BOMBS OR
MISSILES." IN RESPONSE TO US QUESTION RE CONVERSION RATHER
THAN CONSTRUCTION, KARPOV STATED THAT UNDER SOVIET PRO-
POSAL TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT CANNOT BE CONVERTED TO BOMBERS,
EITHER AS BOMB CARRIERS OR AS CRUISE MISSILE CARRIERS.

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2. PEREZ EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF US DEC. 12 PLENARY
STATEMENT ON MIRV VERIFICATION AND INDICATED WILLINGNESS
TO DISCUSS WHENEVER SOVIETS ARE READY TO DO SO. KARPOV
ASKED WHETHER US FOCUS ON PARA 5 OF ARTICLE II, DEALING
WITH MIRVS, MEANT THAT IT CONTEMPLATED A DIFFERENT APPROACH
TO II.1 DEALING WITH ICBMS IN GENERAL. PEREZ ANSWERED

THAT US HOPED TO RESOLVE PARA 5 BEFORE ATTACKING PARA 1 AND THAT IT DID NOT HAVE A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO SUGGEST AT THIS TIME ON LATTER QUESTION. AS RESULT OF US SUGGESTION, GROUP DECIDED TO ESTABLISH SMALL WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE US PROPOSAL IN DETAIL. NO DATE SET FOR FIRST MEETING OF SUB-GROUP. CONFORMING SUB-GROUP MEETING WILL BE HELD JANUARY 19.

3. PEREZ REVIEWED LENGTHY ATTEMPT TO FIND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY LANGUAGE FOR NOTION OF "CAPABILITIES - CHARACTERISTICS" IN ART. II.3. AND AGREED STATEMENT. US PROPOSED USE OF TERM "OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES" IN ENGLISH WHICH ACCORDING TO SOVIET ENGLISH-RUSSIAN MILITARY DICTIONARY, IS EQUIVALENT OF RUSSIAN TERM "BOYEVYYE VOZMOZHNOСТИ". KARPOV PRESSED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON US CONCEPTION OF TERM AND WAS INFORMED THAT IT CONNOTES HOW AN AIRCRAFT WOULD FUNCTION IN ITS MILITARY ROLE, RATHER THAN SUCH ELEMENTS AS SIZE OF ENGINES OR FUSELAGE. US TERM WOULD COVER CAPACITY OF AIRCRAFT TO EXECUTE SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION, FOR EXAMPLE, DELIVERY OF CERTAIN PAYLOAD AT INTERNATIONAL RANGE. KARPOV ASKED WHY US COULD NOT ACCEPT SOVIET TERM "CHARACTERISTICS". US REPS EMPHASIZED DIFFICULTY OF TRANSLATING THIS INTO EXACT ENGLISH EQUIVALENT. KARPOV CONCLUDED THAT US CONSIDERS PROBLEM ONE OF TRANSLATION RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE AND SAID SOVIET SIDE WOULD STUDY MATTER IN THAT LIGHT.

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4. NEXT DRAFTING GROUP MEETING JANUARY 17. EARLE

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Message Attributes

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